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Education In Politics

By CHARLES M. HILLS
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"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. . . I Cor. 3:19.

The spectacle of educators screaming that schools must not be closed when no man seeks to close a school.

Of college heads and sports figures in hiding for fear of the due process of law.

And of students clamoring for associations that ordinarily they would despise.

These things we see today on the front pages of our daily newspapers and are mindful of the above passage of the Holy Word.

What are we coming to . . . what are we ourselves doing to ourselves and our children, we who speak of "principle" as something holy and then for the sake of sports baubles that burst as they are played and forgot, forsake our heritage and risk all for a fire-fly's split-second in the arc-light?

Only a few months ago our people arose to fever-pitch indignation that a Negro should enter one of our major schools.

Now we have those who arise in indignation that authorities object to voluntary integration on the field of sport.

The spectacle is not a pleasant one for those who would maintain the traditions and the purity of the Old South.

UNTOUCHABLES

Suddenly it dawns upon us, and almost violently, that we in Mississippi have set up a system of "untouchables" that decides the issues of the day, blatantly informing that "we will not be told."

A few days ago, the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning decided to back the president of Mississippi State University to allow integrated tournament competition by its basketball team.

The president of the board was seen in picture in the papers, telling a woman objector in no uncertain terms that it was none of her business.

The board would do as it pleased, and being constitutionally composed, no man could gainsay, let alone a woman.

And even as a legislator attempted to halt the play, by injunction, college heads and coaches played hide and seek, and advertised the fact, with law enforcement officers seeking to serve injunctions.

Does this all sound like "education" of the kind we sent our boys and girls to school to receive?

Certainly, we don't detect high principle in such doings.

RUMBLINGS

Ever since Gov. Ross Barnett and Lt. Gov. Paul Johnson bared their chests to federal intimidation and invasion, there have been clamorings against some of the policies of those in authority in educational institutions.

The constitutional college board that was to be "taken out of politics" some years ago when the state's basic instrument of law was amended to put the board out of you, the voter's reach, has become so powerful that the counsel of even a segment of the people is ignored belligerently.

You don't have to strain an ear, as a result, to hear cries of "change the constitution and put the board back in the hands of the people."

There are cries of "elect the board."

And, to these ears, that sounds good. We have continuously opposed appointives without strings.

So long as the people can put a man in office or take him out at the proper time, we see the world safe for democracy.

Elective officials make for fewer cries of "impeachment," and such are being heard now.

TAKE STOCK

It is time that all of us take stock of ourselves and decide what we want, integration or segregation.

In betweens don't count.

A little bit of integration can be just as fatal as total integration.

It is up to Mississippians to decide if they want to take the Negro to bosom.

Consider his offerings to civilization and decide for yourself if you want his lot or yours.

We have had him for 200 years, and what has he done for himself and for others?

He has been unfettered for more than a hundred years, and what has he made of his lot?

Has the Negro prospered in the areas of the nation where he has become most powerful?

Have the do-gooders who have welcomed him actually come to love him?

Or has the Negro taken over in his own way and re-segregated himself according to his own lights?

Look at Washington, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles. What do you see in them that is good for us?

Someone has said, "a little education goes a long way."

Sho' Nuff?